

# FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3963, to reauthorize the Long Island Sound Restoration Act through 2010.

The Long Island Sound is a 16,000 square foot estuary that is home to 10 percent of the Nation's population. The Sound provides \$6 billion to the Connecticut and New York economies through recreational activities, commercial boating and fishing, and trade. The New Haven, Bridgeport, and New London ports bring national and international trade to our region, and this valuable economic and environmental resource must be protected. Reauthorizing LISRA will enable us to do that.

One of the greatest threats to the Long Island Sound is excessive nitrogen loading that causes hypoxia or low dissolved oxygen in the water that reduces the amount of healthy habitat necessary to support fish and shellfish. This is a problem that can be combated by upgrading sewage treatment plants to remove nitrogen from waste water, and Connecticut, New York, and the Environmental Protection Agency have committed to reducing nitrogen levels in the Sound by over 50 percent by 2014. This strong commitment, however, costs money, and cannot be accomplished without the reauthorization of LISRA.

Through 2004, Connecticut received \$7.8 million in federal funding to assist in nitrogen cleanup, and it expects to receive an additional \$1.9 million for 2005. Connecticut has invested over \$150 million of its own money to upgrade sewage treatment plants, and will continue to do so with the help of LISRA. Six communities in my district—Ansonia, Derby, Naugatuck, New Haven, Waterbury, and West Haven—have benefited from LISRA funding, but they cannot complete these much needed upgrades without federal help.

Mr. Speaker, the Long Island Sound is a unique body of water—one of our most precious natural resources—and it must be protected. I urge the passage of this bill.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE OF SOLANO COUNTY SUPERVISOR SKIP THOMSON

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional value of Skip Thomson's thirty plus years of dedicated service to the citizens of Solano County.

In 1976, Skip Thomson began his career by accepting a position as Appraiser Aide in the Assessor's Valuation Division. Shortly thereafter he and his high school sweetheart, Gail Woods, were married, and within ten years Skip and Gail Thomson were blessed with two sons. Their oldest son, Loren, is a First Lieutenant in the California National Guard and is currently serving our country in Iraq. Their

second son, Brandon, is currently a sophomore at Sierra Junior College in Rocklin, California, and is pursuing a Liberal Arts Degree.

After 16 years of service in the Assessor's Valuation Division, Skip Thomson campaigned for and won a position as a member of the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Skip served three terms representing the Fifth District, which encompasses 52 percent of Solano County, including the cities of Dixon, Rio Vista, south Vacaville and Suisun City. While serving as a member of the Board, one of Skip's proudest achievements was ensuring Travis Air Force Base the ability to expand if and when necessary.

After leaving his county board position, Skip Thomson was elected County Assessor/Recorder. Under his direction, a plan was developed and implemented that finalized the recording process of a 38,000 document backlog that existed when he took office. For this accomplishment, Skip and his staff were recognized for their achievements in the County's Annual Report.

Skip Thomson has spent his entire career working for his community and for the citizens of Solano County. As he enters retirement, I would like to wish Skip, Gail, and their sons many wonderful years of happiness, prosperity, and good health.

## HONORING JOHN BROWN ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 19

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Brown, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the nineteenth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Brown was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other's lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Brown traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 19.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Brown is one of those people and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor him today.

## IN PRAISE OF THE RICHMOND STEELERS FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Richmond Steelers Football Team as they return from the National Youth Football Pigskin League Tournament in Las Vegas. About

128 teams from around the country compete in the Tournament. I am proud to represent them in Congress.

The Richmond Steelers, 200 boys and one girl, under the direction of Head Coach Fred Harris, have long been a story of success in the history of national youth football. The Steelers have won five consecutive California state youth football titles and have compiled a 59–3 record over that span. The team reached their highest mark last year as they took first place in the Midget Division of the Pigskin Tournament.

More than the trophies, the Steelers represent salvation for children who otherwise face numerous hardships. In August 2004, players were devastated by the murder of Terrance Kelley, a former Steelers player and De La Salle High School football star who was on his way to the University of Oregon on a football scholarship. In August of this year, the day before the team's first practice game, beloved Midget coach Waleed Elahi was shot and killed. Waleed and his brother Khalid started an early morning breakfast program to ensure that players had a nutritious meal each morning before going to school.

This year, the opportunity to defend their title was nearly stripped from the Steelers, as they lacked the funds to travel to Las Vegas for the championship games. The team receives no outside funding and relies on membership fees and donations to survive. Steelers President Adrian Muhammad, when asked about the team's situation, said that unless there was a miracle, the team would not be able to afford the trip.

However, miracles still do happen. Once word got out, the community responded, and donations came pouring in. Residents and businesses from Contra Costa County banded together to help the team raise \$30,000 in just a few weeks. With such an overwhelming response, the Steelers were able to make the trip.

The Steelers returned to Richmond with four honors, a first place trophy won by the Pee Wees, two second place trophies won by the Midgets and the Mighty Mites, and the Junior Midget's third place bronze medals. However, for these children and the community at large, the fact that the trip was even made possible is every bit as important as the outcome of the games. The individuals, businesses and community organizations of Richmond pooled their resources and together provided the necessary funding. This effort in support of our children represents the very best in community spirit and is an example of hope that we can all celebrate.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the journey that the coaches and players of the Richmond Steelers, and the community in which they live, have traveled this year. Please join me in celebrating their success.

## HONORING DONALD L. WOODS

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the tremendous career of Donald L. Woods, who is retiring after more than 13 years of service to the United States Attorney's Office, Western Division.

A Vietnam veteran, Donald Woods served in the United States Navy from 1962–1967. As a young Lieutenant, he was a pilot of anti-submarine aircraft aboard the USS *Bennington* aircraft carrier. From 1967–1982 he flew with Braniff Airlines as a flight engineer and pilot.

In 1989, he became a Certified Public Accountant. From 1990–1992, he served as an investigator with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FDIC. In 1992, he transferred to the Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office, in Austin, Texas, as an auditor for bank fraud cases.

During the late 1980s, Austin was the site of numerous failures of federally insured banks and savings and loans. Donald Woods was actively involved in the investigation and prosecution of the owners, directors, and officers of these financial institutions. He utilized his accounting skills to investigate and later testify to financial statements and transactions used to defraud federally insured financial institutions and their investors.

Over the course of his career, Donald Woods has demonstrated his commitment to the American justice system and to maintaining the integrity of our financial institutions. Today I would like to recognize his outstanding service to the legal profession and his dedication to the people of Texas and the United States of America.

#### HONORING ADVENTURES IN MURPHY'S BURROW

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding work of Nancy Phillips and all of the other talented individuals who help to create Adventures in Murphy's Burrow, a children's television show that airs on Murfreesboro, Tennessee's local cable station.

Children, parents and all residents of Murfreesboro can benefit from the educational content provided on Adventures in Murphy's Burrow. The show introduces children, as well as adults, to community leaders and government figures. In addition, children take an active part in the show by submitting questions to the show's featured guest.

I commend each and every individual who has worked to make Adventures in Murphy's Burrow successful. Nancy creates, writes, and produces the show. She is assisted by co-producer Steve Burris and Alan Bozeman, director of the Channel 3 cable station. Wayne White designed the show's star puppet, Murphy. Linda Gilbert was instrumental in involving the Murfreesboro City School System in the program, and Marilyn Mathis works to promote the program within the school system and community.

I thank them all for their wonderful service to the community, and I wish them continued success as they create new adventures for Murphy and the children of Murfreesboro.

HONORING LULA TAYLOR FOR  
HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE  
CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLA-  
TIVE DISTRICT 11

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lula Taylor, a resident of Chautauqua County for her service to the eleventh legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Ms. Taylor has had the opportunity to serve not only as a strong member of the legislature but to her community as a strong community activist.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Taylor traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 11.

Lula is one of those people that leave a huge impact on her community. For many years her efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but in its residents. Her face, voice, opinions and successes were a staple in the legislature. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work Ms. Taylor did during her tenure.

A true testimony to Ms. Taylor can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives she touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do.

Lula is one woman who never stops working for the things she believes in. She serves on the County Human Service Committee, Chautauqua County Board of Health, Chautauqua County Health Network Inc. Advisory Board, Office for the Aging Advisory Board, County Home Advisory Board, Safe House Committee, and is an AIDS Awareness Advocate. Her community activism is a true testament to her love of Chautauqua County.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Taylor is one of those people and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor her today.

#### RACISM OF INDIAN FOUNDER EXPOSED

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the unveiling of a statue of Mohandas K. Gandhi in Johannesburg, South Africa, set off a discussion about the anti-black racism of the founder of India.

When the eight-foot high Gandhi statue was unveiled, portraying him as a young human-rights lawyer, many leaders attacked Gandhi's anti-black statements. "Gandhi had no love for Africans," said one letter in *The Citizen*, a South African newspaper. "To him, Africans were no better than the 'Untouchables' of India."

As you may know, Mr. Speaker, the dark-skinned aborigines of the subcontinent, known

as Dalits or "Untouchables," occupy the lowest rung on the ladder of India's rigid and racist caste system. The caste system exists to protect the privileged position of the Brahmins, the top caste. Although it was officially banned by India's constitution in 1950, it is still strictly practiced in Hindu India.

Others have pointed out that Gandhi ignored the suffering of black people during the colonial occupation of South Africa. When he was arrested and forced to share a cell with black prisoners, he wrote that they were "only one degree removed from the animal." In other words, Mr. Speaker, he described blacks as less than human. We condemn anyone who says this in our country, such as the Ku Klux Klan and others, as we should. Why is Gandhi venerated for such statements?

In addition, G.B. Singh, a Gandhi biographer, has looked through many pictures of him and never seen one single black person. Gandhi also attacked white Europeans.

Gandhi is honored as the founder of India. These statements and attitudes reveal the racist underpinning behind the secular, democratic façade of India. It explains a worldview that permits a Dalit constable to be stoned to death for entering the temple on a rainy day, that allows the murders of over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 250,000 Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims elsewhere in the country, including Graham Staines and his two young sons, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. It explains why the pro-Fascist, Hindu militant RSS is a powerful organization in India, in control of one of its two major political parties.

India must abandon its racist attitudes and its exploitation of minorities. It must allow the enjoyment of full human rights by everyone. Until it does so, we should stop our aid and trade with India. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. India must allow self-determination for Kashmir, as it promised the United Nations in 1948, in Punjab, Khalistan, in Nagaland, and wherever the people seek to free themselves from the boot of Indian oppression. We should put this Congress on record in support of self-determination for the people of the subcontinent in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence. Khalistan declared its independence on October 7, 1987. The people have never been allowed to have a simple, democratic vote on the matter. Instead, India continues to oppress the people there with over half a million troops.

Mr. Speaker, reporter Rory Carroll of *The Guardian* wrote an excellent article on the controversy about the Gandhi statue. I would like to place it in the RECORD at this time.

[*The Guardian*, Friday Oct. 17, 2003]

GANDHI BRANDED RACIST AS JOHANNESBURG  
HONOURS FREEDOM FIGHTER

(By Rory Carroll)

It was supposed to honour his resistance to racism in South Africa, but a new statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Johannesburg has triggered a row over his alleged contempt for black people. The 2.5 metre high (8ft) bronze statue depicting Gandhi as a dashing young human rights lawyer has been welcomed by Nelson Mandela, among others, for recognising the Indian who launched the fight against white minority rule at the turn of the last century.